

Beasley Allen

BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW, METHVIN, PORTIS & MILES, P.C.
Attorneys at law

218 COMMERCE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 4160
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36103-4160
(334) 269-2343
(800) 898-2034
FAX: (334) 954-7555
BEASLEYALLEN.COM

David B. Byrne, III
David.Byrne@BeasleyAllen.com

February 7, 2011

Warren Yeager, Jr., Chairman
Gulf County Board of County Commissioners
1000 Cecil G. Costin, Sr. Blvd.
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456

Re: BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill – Impact Statement, Gulf County, Florida

Dear Chairman Yeager:

As requested by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, Beasley Allen, P.C. is submitting the following statement concerning the impact of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on Gulf County property owners, businesses and environmental resources generally.

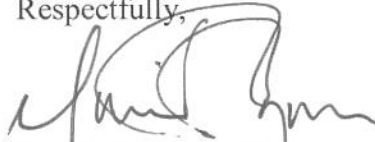
To begin with, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is the largest offshore spill in U.S. history. Hundreds of millions of gallons of oil were released into the Gulf of Mexico and confirmed petroleum product originating from the Deepwater Horizon has entered St. Joseph's Bay and impacted Gulf County's shoreline. Hazardous material teams have been collecting tarballs on Gulf County beaches for over 6-months and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Damage to the County's vital estuaries and environmental habitats may take years to resolve.

In terms of economic impact, the oil spill has negatively affected Gulf County --- including residents and businesses of all types. There has been a decline in tourism and visitors to Gulf County, which has resulted in losses to businesses throughout the County. Negative perceptions about oil spill impacts on Gulf County beaches have stifled the County's expected post-recession economic recovery and growth. For example, the oil spill has impacted Gulf County restaurants, hoteliers, retailers, professional-service providers, property rental income, property maintenance income, and real estate values. In addition, negative public perceptions about the safety and quality of seafood harvested in Gulf County waters (and Florida generally) have harmed the County's commercial and recreational fishing industry.

Gulf County residents and businesses who wish to pursue economic loss claims through the GCCF, are strongly encouraged to keep detailed business records of any losses they have experienced as a result of the oil spill. We would also encourage them to talk with their local trade groups or professional organizations about industry-specific statistics and impact studies that may be relevant to their claims. Ultimately though, the success of any individual claim will depend on the specific information and documentation that the claimant can give the GCCF or an appropriate Court.

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further. We appreciate the opportunity to work with Gulf County and admire the leadership that the Board of County Commissioners and its staff have shown throughout this crisis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David B. Byrne, III', written over a horizontal line.

David B. Byrne, III

BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW
METHVIN, PORTIS & MILES, P.C.